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MIAMI MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO INTERNET FRAUD SCHEME

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, United States Postal Inspector in Charge of the United States Postal Inspection Service Kenneth R. Jones, Concord Police Chief Jerome Madden, Northwood Police Chief Michael D'Alessandro, and Hanover Police Chief Nicholas Giaccone, today announced that Daniel Maycroft, 33, most recently of Miami, Florida, pleaded guilty in the United States District Court to one count of mail fraud based upon his fraudulent offers to sell laptop computers over the Internet. Maycroft offered laptop computers for sale on the Internet, accepted payment for the computers, and then failed to deliver any computers. The indictment charged that Maycroft, who used numerous aliases to promote his scheme, never intended to deliver any computers.

Maycroft first came to the attention of law enforcement authorities after a number of individuals filed complaints with the Internet Fraud Complaint Center that an individual was selling laptop computers through various Internet-based marketers, accepting payment for the computers, and then not delivering the computers. Investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Concord, Northwood, and Hanover Police Departments, led authorities to a Northwood residence where Maycroft was staying. Maycroft, who used the names Daniel McPherson, Connor MacLeod, and Eric Christensen, left New Hampshire shortly after speaking with law enforcement officers. Maycroft was located in Miami, Florida a few days later and arrested by Postal Inspectors in Miami on March 2, 2004.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "The Internet is an increasingly important site for conducting business. While the advantages and efficiencies of using the Net to conduct commercial transactions cannot be denied, consumers need to be protected from unscrupulous sellers and fraudulent schemes. My office is dedicated to investigating and prosecuting those who use the Internet as a vehicle for schemes to defraud. Citizens should always remember to conduct careful research before completing transactions in cyberspace. Knowledge is always a citizen's best defense against fraud."

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Litigation Counsel Don Feith.